

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 3 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 2-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art ("AAPA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,996,615 to Iwanaga ("Iwanaga").

Claim 5 stands rejected, but the Office Action provides no basis for the rejection.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1 and 6-13.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claims 1-4 and 6-13 are pending in the application. Claims 3 and 13 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 2 has been amended to further define the invention. Claim 5 has been cancelled.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 3 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 3 and 13 have been amended to overcome the rejection.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Iwanaga. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of the claims as amended.

Although claim 5 is listed on the Office Action as rejected, no basis for the rejection is offered. Claim 2 has been amended to include the features of cancelled claim 5. Neither the

AAPA nor Iwanaga disclose or suggest the features of “an annular reinforcement projection formed by partially bending the clamper plate in a downward direction and surrounding the periphery of the guide hole; and linear reinforcement projections extending from the annular reinforcement projection toward both ends of the clamper plate” as recited in the amended claim 2.

Claim 2 has also been amended to recite that both side edges of the clamper plate are closely folded so as to be overlapped with the plate without forming a gap therebetween. In Fig. 15 of the AAPA, a gap 9 is formed between the bent portion and the plate. In Iwanaga, a gap (mounting groove 28) is formed between the bent portion 28a and the plate. Thus, none of the cited references discloses this feature of claim 2 as amended.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Iwanaga be withdrawn.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that claim 2 and its dependent claims 3 and 4, and claim 13 are in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 2-4 and 13 is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

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By:



Kent Basson

Registration No. 48,125

CUSTOMER NO. 009629
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
202.739.3000